

6 programmatically determining for each firewall the degradation or the
7 amelioration of the measured response time.

1 Claim 18(new). The program product according to claim 14 or 16 wherein the step
2 of measuring the availability of each firewall server using measurement probes
3 comprises the further step of:

a/ 4 programmatically detecting failures on each firewall server; and,

5 programmatically excluding firewall servers in failure from the step of
6 selecting a firewall server.

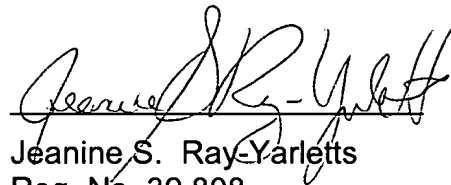
1 Claim 19 (new). The program product according to claim 14 or 16 wherein said
2 firewall server is a proxy server or a socks server.

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to fix several grammatical and typographical errors that occurred in the priority filing. The claims have been amended to bring them into conformance with U.S. regulations and to present the associated system and program product claims disclosed in the invention. The abstract has been amended to conform with the requirement of being one paragraph of 50 words or less.

The applicants have made a sincere effort to place this application in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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